

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 02/04/2009 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 3, 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

With respect to claims 1 and 8, it is unclear what applicant means by "said blowing means are installed to overlap as seen horizontally" and "wherein said blowing means are arrayed offset to the left and right" in lines 10-12 of both claims. As seen horizontally with respect to what reference point? **Does applicant mean said blowing means are arrayed or installed in an overlapping pattern along the transport line**

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**of said conveyor? Or does applicant mean said blowing means are arrayed above and below the transport line of said conveyor in an overlapping pattern horizontally from chamber to chamber? (See, the embodiment of figure 19).**

Therefore the metes and bounds of claims are unascertainable. **Applicant is asked to clarify. It is suggested that Applicant refrain from using the phrase “as seen” when describing the horizontal orientation of the overlap. Instead, it is suggested that Applicant define the orientation of the overlap with respect to a reference point that is part of the apparatus (i.e. the blowing means overlap along a line that is parallel/perpendicular to the transport line of the conveyor).**

With respect to claims 3 and 10, it is unclear what applicant means by "said blowing means are installed to overlap as seen vertically" in lines 11-12 of both claims. As seen vertically with respect to what reference point? **Does applicant mean the blowing means are installed offset up and down and overlapping vertically from chamber to chamber along a transport line of said conveyor (See, the embodiment of figure 8)?** Therefore the metes and bounds of claims are unascertainable. **Applicant is asked to clarify. It is suggested that Applicant refrain from using the phrase “as seen” when describing the vertical orientation of the overlap. Instead, it is suggested that Applicant define the orientation of the overlap with respect to a reference point that is part of the apparatus (i.e. the blowing means overlap along a line that is parallel/perpendicular to the transport line of the conveyor).**

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 8 and 10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL ABOAGYE whose telephone number is (571)272-8165. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Fri 8:30am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jessica Ward can be reached on 571-272-1223. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/M. A./

Examiner, Art Unit 1793

/Jessica L. Ward/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1793